

Algernon. I am afraid I can't stay more than a week this time.

Jack. Merriman, order the dog-cart at once. Mr. Ernest has

been suddenly called back to town.

Merriman. Yes, sir. *[Goes back into the house.]*

Algernon. What a fearful liar you are, Jack! I have not been

called back to town at all.

Jack. Yes, you have.

Algernon. I haven't heard any one call me.

Jack. Your duty as a gentleman calls you back.

Algernon. My duty as a gentleman has never

interfered with my pleasures in the smallest degree.

Jack. I can quite understand that.

Algernon. Well, Cecily is a darling.

Jack. You are not to talk of Miss Cardew like that. I don't like it.

Algernon. Well, I don't like your clothes. You look perfectly

ridiculous in them. Why on earth don't

you go up and

change? It is perfectly childish to be in deep

mourning for

a man who is actually staying for a whole week

with you in

your house as a guest. I call it grotesque.

Jack. You are certainly not staying with me for a whole week

as a guest or anything else. You have got to

leave . . . by

the four-five train.

Algernon. I certainly won't leave you so long as you are in

mourning. It would be most unfriendly.

If I were in

mourning you would stay with me, I suppose.

I should

think it very unkind if you didn't.

Jack. Well, will you go if I change my clothes?

Algernon. Yes, if you are not too long. I never

saw anybody

take so long to dress, and with such little result.

Jack. Well, at any rate, that is better than

being always

over-dressed as you are.

Algernon. If I am occasionally a little over-dressed, I make

up for it by being always immensely over-

educated.

Jack. Your vanity is ridiculous, your conduct an outrage, and

your presence in my garden utterly absurd.

However, you

have got to catch the four-five, and I hope you

will have a

pleasant journey back to town. This

Bunburying, as you

call it, has not been a great success for you.

[Goes into the

house.]

Algernon. I think it has been a great success.

Fin in love with

Cecily, and that is everything.